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STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			DAVIS, CYNTHIA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2665	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/527,915

Applicant(s)

SCOTT ET AL.

Examiner

Cynthia L Davis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-91 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-91 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/21/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1, 5, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 28, 30, 34, 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 55, 57, 59, 63, 73, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 84, 86, 88, 89, and 91 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ireland.

Regarding claim 1, at least one database that stores data is disclosed in Ireland, column 6, lines 12 and 13. At least one database client server that accesses said at least one database is disclosed in column 6, lines 14-15. At least one database client that accesses said at least one database client server is disclosed in column 6, line 10. At least one service module that accesses the database system is disclosed in column 7, line 57 (the Java Transaction Service). A multi-database client that manages said at least one service module's access to said at least one database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 53-55 (the Jaguar CTS). A database access manager that monitors said at least one service module access to said multi-database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 37-62, and figure 2, elements 222 and 226 (the session management and transaction management modules).

Regarding claim 30, storing data in at least one database is disclosed in Ireland, column 6, lines 12 and 13. Accessing said at least one database with at least one database client server is disclosed in column 6, lines 14-15. Accessing said at least

one database client server with at least one database client is disclosed in column 6, line 10. Accessing the database system with at least one service module is disclosed in column 7, line 57 (the Java Transaction Service). Managing said at least one service module's access to said at least one database client with a multi-database client is disclosed in in column 7, lines 53-55 (the Jaguar CTS). Monitoring said at least one service module access to said multi-database client a database access manager is disclosed in column 7, lines 37-62, and figure 2, elements 222 and 226 (the session management and transaction management modules).

Regarding claim 59, a computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic stored therein is disclosed in Ireland, column 1, lines 44-46 (the system is implemented in computers. Means for enabling a computer to access at least one database that stores data is disclosed in Ireland, column 6, lines 12 and 13. Means for enabling a computer to access at least one database client server that accesses said at least one database is disclosed in column 6, lines 14-15. Means for enabling a computer to access at least one database client that accesses said at least one database client server is disclosed in column 6, line 10. Means for enabling a computer to access at least one service module that accesses the database system is disclosed in column 7, line 57 (the Java Transaction Service). Means for enabling a computer to access a multi-database client that manages said at least one service module's access to said at least one database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 53-55 (the Jaguar CTS). Means for enabling a computer to access a database access manager that monitors said at least one service module access to said multi-

database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 37-62, and figure 2, elements 222 and 226 (the session management and transaction management modules).

Regarding claims 5, 34, and 63, said at least one database includes a relational database is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 51-53.

Regarding claims 15, 44, and 73, connecting means for connecting service modules to a multi-database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 24-25 (the connection pool), monitoring means for monitoring requests for service from said service modules to a multi-database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 21-22 (the session management module), authorizing means for authorizing said requests for service from said service modules to said multi-database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 22 (the security module), and prioritizing means for prioritizing said requests for service from said service modules to said multi-database client is disclosed in column 23 (the thread polling module).

Regarding claims 17, 46, and 75, at least one database client server that receives requests from said multi-database client is disclosed in column 6, lines 14-15 (component transaction server). At least one database client that receives said requests from said at least one database client server is disclosed in column 6, line 10. At least one database that receives said requests from said at least one database client is disclosed in column 6, lines 12-13.

Regarding claims 18, 47, and 76, a software environment that provides a common platform for services; a database manager that communicates with at least one database client; a database service that instantiates said database manager; a

thread pool queue that receives requests from said database manager; a request handler that receives said requests from said thread pool queue; an internal services manager that manages said request handler's access to service modules, a database connection that links said service modules with a database interface, and a database connection manager that manages said database connection are disclosed in figure 2, element 222 (the CTS kernel does all these things) and column 7, lines 21-46.

Regarding claims 19, 48, and 77, executing means for executing a database service; instantiating means for instantiating a database manager to receive and respond to requests; building means for building a thread pool queue to queue said requests; first connecting means for connecting to a software environment; second connecting means for connecting to a database client; maintaining means for maintaining said thread pool queue, first receiving means for receiving said requests from a request handler; second receiving means for receiving said requests from said database client, responding means for responding to said database client; first forwarding means for forwarding said requests to said thread pool queue; second forwarding means for forwarding said requests to said software environment and third forwarding means for forwarding said requests to a multi-database client are disclosed in figure 2, element 222 (the CTS kernel does all these things) and column 7, lines 21-46.

Regarding claims 21, 50, and 79, first connecting means for connecting to a database client server; second connecting means for connecting to a multi-database client, third connecting means for connecting to a software environment; first receiving

means for receiving requests for service from said multi-database client, second receiving means for receiving said requests for service from said software environment; first forwarding means for forwarding said requests for service to said database client server; third receiving means for receiving a response from said database client server; second forwarding means for forwarding said response to said multi-database client; and third forwarding means for forwarding said response to said software environment are disclosed in figure 2, element 222 (the CTS kernel does all these things) and column 7, lines 21-46.

Regarding claims 22 and 80, means for instantiating a provisioning system document that provides query objects with respect to record in a database is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI is a provisioning system document; it can be used to access the database). Means for connecting said provisioning system document to a software environment and second connecting means for connecting a provisioning system document to a multi-database client are disclosed in column 6, line 10 (the client is a software environment, the GUI connects to both). Means for instantiating a provisioning system view that provides an interface with respect to said provisioning system document and third connecting means for connecting said provisioning system view with said provisioning system document is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI is a provisioning system document; it provides an interface to the provisioning system). Means for providing information from a database client subsystem where said database client subsystem is connected to said database is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67.

Regarding claim 51, instantiating a provisioning system document that provides query objects with respect to record in a database is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI is a provisioning system document; it can be used to access the database). Connecting said provisioning system document to a software environment; connecting a provisioning system document to a multi-database client are disclosed in column 6, line 10 (the client is a software environment, the GUI connects to both). Instantiating a provisioning system view that provides an interface with respect to said provisioning system document, connecting said provisioning system view with said provisioning system document is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI is a provisioning system document; it provides an interface to the provisioning system). Providing information from a database client subsystem where said database client subsystem is connected to said database is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67.

Regarding claim 26, querying means for querying a client database for configuration information and receiving means for receiving data from said client database is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67; determining means for determining if said data represents updated configuration information is disclosed in column 8, lines 30-31. Sending means for sending a message representative of said updated configuration information to said software environment is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50.

Regarding claim 55, querying a client database for configuration information, receiving data from said client database is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67; determining if said data represents updated configuration information is disclosed in



column 8, lines 30-31. Sending a message representative of said updated configuration information to said software environment is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50.

Regarding claim 84, means for enabling a computer to query a client database for configuration information, and means for enabling a computer to receive data from said client database is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67; means for enabling a computer to determine if said data represents updated configuration information is disclosed in column 8, lines 30-31. Means for enabling a computer to send a message representative of said updated configuration information to said software environment is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50.

Regarding claims 28, 57, and 86, said software environment includes a database server is disclosed in column 6, lines 12-13.

Regarding claims 88-89 and 91, a computer interface means for displaying said database services to a predetermined computer, information being exchanged with said predetermined computer, said computer interface means being capable of configuring said database services is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI can be used to access the database).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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2. Claims 2, 3, 9-13, 23-25, 27, 29, 31, 32, 38-42, 52-54, 56, 58, 60, 61, 67-71, 81-83, 85, 87, and 90 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ireland in view of Ladd.

Regarding claims 2, 31, and 60, said at least one service module includes an account service is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, line 54, a database that holds account information. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include an account service in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to allow customers to access their account information.

Regarding claims 3, 32, and 61, said at least one service module includes a call detail record service is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 23-26, a billing server that records information regarding call details. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include a call detail record service in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to allow customers to access their call detail records.

Regarding claims 9, 38, and 67, obtaining means for obtaining account information, requesting means for requesting said account information from at least one multi-database client, and receiving means for receiving said account information from at least one multi-database client are disclosed in column 8, lines 16-17, 56-57, and 65-67 (the result sets transfer such information). First forwarding means for forwarding said account information to a multi-database client is disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67 (the client receives the results). Second forwarding means for forwarding said account

information to a database access manager is disclosed in column 7, line 22 (the client's information must go through the security module to access the database).

Regarding claims 10, 39, and 68, said account information includes a user's name, telephone number, identification number, password, system service access level, billing information and preferred calling patterns is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 54-55, a database that holds such account information. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include such account information in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to fully describe the customer's account.

Regarding claims 11, 40, and 69, said account information includes a group's name, identification number, password, system service access level, usage restrictions, billing information, and preferred calling patterns is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 23-26 and 54-55, a database that holds such account information. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include such account information in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to fully describe the customer's account.

Regarding claims 12, 41, and 70, First sending means for sending information to a multi-client database is disclosed in column 7, lines 53-55 (disclosing writing to the database). Receiving means for receiving a request for said information from a database access manager; and second sending means for sending said information to said multi-database client from said server are disclosed in column 8, lines 65-67. That the information is call details, and recording means for recording call details and storing

means for storing said call details in a call detail records server are missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 22-27, a server that records and holds call detail information. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to store and access call detail information in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to have such information on hand for billing purposes.

Regarding claims 13, 42, and 71, a local cache to automatically store call detail records, wherein said service module for recording call details stores said call details when first sending means is unsuccessful is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 25-27, the call control unit holding call details locally before they are sent to the server. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include a cache in the system of Ireland to locally hold information. The motivation would be to hold the information before it is submitted to the central database, in case the database is busy with other clients.

Regarding claim 23, a software environment that provides a communications layer for a plurality of components is disclosed in column 7, lines 21 (the CTS kernel); a management system document that provides configuration objects with respect to said plurality of components is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 (the metadata); a management system view that provides an interface with respect to said management system document is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50 (the user interface); a management client that interacts with said plurality of components is disclosed in column 6, lines 10 (the thin client); management client objects that enable management events is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 (the metadata's list of components);

management controls that interface with said management client objects, said management controls monitoring said management events, wherein said management events are sent between said management client and said management client objects and said management client objects and said management controls with respect to interaction between said management client and said management system view is disclosed in column 7, lines 21-22 and 23-24 (the session management and transaction management modules). That the system is used in conjunction with a voice over internet communications system is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 9, lines 55-column 10, line 2, a VOIP system used in conjunction with a database querying system. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the system of Ireland to manage a VOIP system. The motivation would be to efficiently store and extract data regarding VOIP communications.

Regarding claim 52, providing a communications layer for a plurality of components with a software environment is disclosed in column 7, lines 21 (the CTS kernel); providing configuration objects with respect to said plurality of components with a management system document is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 (the metadata); providing an interface with respect to said management system document with a management system view is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50 (the user interface); interacting with said plurality of components with a management client is disclosed in column 6, lines 10 (the thin client); enabling management events with management client objects is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 (the metadata's list of components); interfacing with said management client objects, said management controls monitoring

said management events with management controls, wherein said management events are sent between said management client and said management client objects and said management client objects and said management controls with respect to interaction between said management client and said management system view is disclosed in column 7, lines 21-22 and 23-24 (the session management and transaction management modules). That the system is used in conjunction with a voice over internet communications system is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 9, lines 55-column 10, line 2, a VOIP system used in conjunction with a database querying system. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the system of Ireland to manage a VOIP system. The motivation would be to efficiently store and extract data regarding VOIP communications.

Regarding claim 81, means for enabling a computer to access a software environment that provides a communications layer for a plurality of components is disclosed in column 7, lines 21 (the CTS kernel); means for enabling a computer to access a management system document that provides configuration objects with respect to said plurality of components is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 (the metadata); means for enabling a computer to access a management system view that provides an interface with respect to said management system document is disclosed in column 5, lines 48-50 (the user interface); means for enabling a computer to access a management client that interacts with said plurality of components is disclosed in column 6, lines 10 (the thin client); means for enabling a computer to access management client objects that enable management events is disclosed in column 10,

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lines 51-55 (the metadata's list of components); means for enabling a computer to access management controls that interface with said management client objects, said management controls monitoring said management events, wherein said management events are sent between said management client and said management client objects and said management client objects and said management controls with respect to interaction between said management client and said management system view is disclosed in column 7, lines 21-22 and 23-24 (the session management and transaction management modules). That the system is used in conjunction with a voice over internet communications system is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 9, lines 55-column 10, line 2, a VOIP system used in conjunction with a database querying system. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to use the system of Ireland to manage a VOIP system. The motivation would be to efficiently store and extract data regarding VOIP communications.

Regarding claims 24, 53, and 82, a cache of object controls, wherein said cache of object controls receives updates from said management client is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 of Ireland.

Regarding claims 25, 54, and 83, said cache of object controls implements updates with respect to said management client objects and said management controls is disclosed in column 10, lines 51-55 of Ireland (the metadata handles all updates to objects in the database that are sent by the user).

Regarding claims 27, 56, and 85, said software environment includes a gateway server is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, line 34, a

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gateway server in a database system. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include a gateway server in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to provide access to remote internet users.

Regarding claims 29, 58, and 87, said software environment includes a routing server is missing from Ireland. However, Ladd discloses in column 10, lines 42-44, a routing server in a database system. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include a routing server in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to provide access to remote internet users.

Regarding claim 90, a computer interface means for displaying said database services to a predetermined computer, information being exchanged with said predetermined computer, said computer interface means being capable of configuring said database services is disclosed in Ireland, column 5, lines 43 and 48-50 (the GUI can be used to access the database).

3. Claims 4, 14, 33, 43, 62 and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ireland in view of Donaldson.

Regarding claims 4, 33, and 62, said at least one service module includes an event log service is missing from Ireland. However, Donaldson discloses in column 11, line 32, a database with an event log service. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include an event log service in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to allow customers to access their event log records.

Regarding claims 14, 43, and 72, receiving means for receiving a request for service, determining means for determining the type of service being requested, and



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sending means for sending said event to a multi-database client are disclosed in column 8, lines 65-57 (the invoked method is a request for service). Recording means for recording said request for service and the details of the service provided as an event are missing from Ireland. However, Donaldson discloses in column 11, line 32, a database with an event log for recording event details. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include an event log in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to keep a history of actions carried out in the database for maintenance purposes.

4. Claims 6-8, 35-37, and 64-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ireland in view of Pearson.

Regarding claims 6, 35, and 64, said at least one database includes a non-relational database is missing from Ireland. However, Pearson discloses in column 3, lines 2-5, a system using non-relational databases. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate non-relational databases in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to be able to access older, "legacy" databases.

Regarding claims 7, 36, and 65, said at least one database and said at least one database client server are configured behind a firewall is missing from Ireland. However, Pearson discloses in column 3, lines 2-5, a system using non-relational databases. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate non-relational databases in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to be able to access older, "legacy" databases.

Regarding claims 8, 37, and 66, said at least one database client accesses said at least one database client server through said firewall is missing from Ireland. However, Pearson discloses in figure 2, elements 54 and 58, a database server behind a firewall. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention access the database through a firewall. The motivation would be to improve security in the system.

5. Claims 16, 20, 45, 49, 74, and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ireland in view of Montgomery.

Regarding claims 16, 45, and 74, first connecting means for connecting with service modules and second connecting means for connecting with at least one database client are disclosed in column 7, lines 21-22 and 24-25 (the connection pool and session management modules). Receiving means for receiving requests for service from said service modules is disclosed in column 7, line 21-22 (the transaction management module), queuing means for queuing said requests for service from said service modules is disclosed in column 7, lines 23 (the thread polling module), forwarding means for forwarding requests for service from said service modules to said at least one database client is disclosed in column 7, lines 23-24 (the transaction management module). Confirming means for continuing with said at least one database client that said requests for service from said service modules was received as forwarded is missing from Ireland. However, Montgomery discloses in column 22, lines 8-11, a database that confirms receipt of a query. It would have been obvious to one

skilled in the art at the time of the invention to provide confirmation means in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to ensure correct receipt of queries.

Regarding claims 20, 49, and 78, first connecting means for connecting to a requests handler; second connecting means for connecting to at least one service module; third connecting means for connecting to a multi-database client; fourth connecting means for connecting to a database access manager, forwarding means for forwarding requests for service from said at least one service module to said requests handler are disclosed in figure 2, element 222 (the CTS kernel does all these things) and column 7, lines 21-46. Confirming means for confirming the handling of said requests for service by said service modules is missing from Ireland. However, Montgomery discloses in column 22, lines 8-11, a database that confirms receipt and processing of a query. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to provide confirmation means in the system of Ireland. The motivation would be to ensure correct receipt and processing of queries.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cynthia L Davis whose telephone number is (571) 272-3117. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 6, Monday to Thursday.

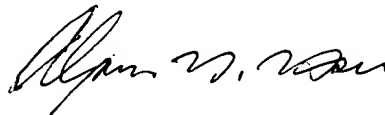
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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ALPUS H. HSU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER